



## COVID-19

# Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters

Updated Apr. 6, 2023

### What You Need to Know

- CDC recommends everyone stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines for their age group:
  - [Children and teens aged 6 months–17 years](#)
  - [Adults aged 18 years and older](#)
- Getting a COVID-19 vaccine after you have recovered from COVID-19 infection provides added protection against COVID-19.
- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised have [different recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines](#).
- COVID-19 vaccine and booster recommendations may be updated as CDC continues to monitor the latest COVID-19 data.



### Updated Boosters Are Recommended

CDC recommends **1 updated COVID-19 vaccine dose** for everyone [aged 6 months and older](#).

## Find Out When You Can Get Your Booster



Boosters are an important part of protecting yourself from getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19. People ages 6 months and older should receive 1 updated booster, if they are eligible, including those who are [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#).

[Find Out When to Get a Booster >](#)

People who did not receive Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Novavax, or Johnson & Johnson's Janssen, like [people who were vaccinated abroad](#), have specific recommendations.

This tool is intended to help you make decisions about getting COVID-19 vaccinations. It should not be used to diagnose or treat COVID-19.

## About COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. As with other vaccine-preventable diseases, you are protected best from COVID-19 when you stay up to date with the recommended vaccinations, including recommended boosters.

Four COVID-19 vaccines are approved or authorized in the United States:

- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Moderna
- Novavax
- Johnson & Johnson's Janssen (J&J/Janssen) (CDC recommends that the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine only be [considered in certain situations](#), due to safety concerns.)

To find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you: Search [vaccines.gov](#), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233.

## COVID-19 Boosters

### Updated Boosters

The updated boosters are called "updated" because they protect against **both** the original virus that causes COVID-19 **and** the Omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5. Two COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers, Pfizer and Moderna, have developed updated COVID-19 boosters.

Updated COVID-19 boosters became available on:

- September 2, 2022, for people aged 12 years and older
- October 12, 2022, for people aged 5-11 years
- December 9, 2022, for children aged 6 months-4 years who completed the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine primary series
- March 17, 2023, for children aged 6 months-4 years who completed their 3-dose primary series with the original Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

If you have received your updated booster dose, you are currently up to date. There is not a recommendation to get another updated booster dose.

## Original Boosters

Previous boosters are called “original” because they were designed to protect against the original virus that causes COVID-19. They also provide some protection against Omicron, but not as much as the updated boosters.

## When Are You Up to Date?

You are **up to date** with your COVID-19 vaccines when you have completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series and got the most recent booster dose recommended for you by CDC.

- If you have completed your primary series—but are not yet eligible for a booster—you are also considered up to date.
- If you become ill with COVID-19 after you received all COVID-19 vaccine doses recommended for you, you are also considered up to date. You do not need to be revaccinated or receive an additional booster.

COVID-19 vaccine recommendations are based on three things:

1. Your age
2. The vaccine you first received, and
3. The length of time since your last dose

People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised have [different recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines](#).



**For Healthcare Workers:** Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccine schedules](#).

## Getting Vaccines If You Had or Currently Have COVID-19

If you recently had COVID-19, you still need to stay up to date with your vaccines, but you **may** consider delaying your next vaccine dose (whether a primary dose or booster) by 3 months from:

- when your symptoms started.
- Or, if you had no symptoms, when you first received a positive test.

Reinfection is less likely in the weeks to months after infection. However, certain factors could be reasons to get a vaccine sooner rather than later, such as:

- personal risk of severe disease,
- or risk of disease in a loved one or close contact,
- local [COVID-19 Community Level](#),
- and the most common [COVID-19 variant](#) currently causing illness.

## Children and teens aged 6 months–17 years

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AGE GROUP

## 6 MONTHS–4 YEARS

1st Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
PRIMARY SERIES  
3–8 weeks after 1st dose  
**More details:** [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
UPDATED PRIMARY SERIES  
At least 8 weeks after 2nd dose

Children aged 6 months–4 years who received an original 3-dose primary series are recommended to get an updated **Pfizer-BioNTech** vaccine to stay up to date.

**Up to Date:** 2 weeks after the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose for children who received 2 original primary series doses and an updated vaccine for their 3<sup>rd</sup> primary dose. Immediately after the booster for those who received 3 original primary series doses and 1 updated booster.

**More details:** [Staying up to date](#)

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AGE GROUP

## 5–11 YEARS

1st Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
PRIMARY SERIES  
3–8 weeks after 1st dose  
**More details:** [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
UPDATED BOOSTER  
At least 2 months after 2nd dose or last booster, children aged 5 years **can only get a Pfizer-BioNTech booster**, and children aged 6–11 years can get a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna booster.

**Up to Date:** Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you

**More details:** [Staying up to date](#)

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AGE GROUP

## 12–17 YEARS

1st Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
PRIMARY SERIES  
3–8 weeks after 1st dose  
**More details:** [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna**  
UPDATED BOOSTER  
At least 2 months after 2nd dose or last booster

**Up to Date:** Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you

**More details:** [Staying up to date](#)

## Moderna

### AGE GROUP

#### 6 MONTHS–5 YEARS

1st Dose  
**Moderna**  
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose  
**Moderna**  
PRIMARY SERIES  
4–8 weeks after 1st dose  
More details: [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose  
**Moderna**  
UPDATED BOOSTER  
At least 2 months after 2nd  
Moderna dose, children aged 6  
months–4 years **can only get a  
Moderna booster**, and children  
aged 5 years can get a **Pfizer-  
BioNTech or Moderna updated  
booster**.

**Up to Date:** Immediately after receiving an updated booster

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

### AGE GROUP

#### 6–17 YEARS

1st Dose  
**Moderna**  
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose  
**Moderna**  
PRIMARY SERIES  
4–8 weeks after 1st dose  
More details: [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna**  
UPDATED BOOSTER  
At least 2 months after 2nd  
primary series dose

**Up to Date:** Immediately after receiving an updated booster

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

## Novavax

### AGE GROUP

#### 12–17 YEARS

Novavax is not authorized as a booster dose at this time.

1st Dose  
**Novavax**  
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose  
**Novavax**  
PRIMARY SERIES  
3-8 weeks after 1st dose  
**More details:** [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna**  
UPDATED BOOSTER  
At least 2 months after 2nd primary series dose

**Up to Date:** Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you

**More details:** [Staying up to date](#)

[Novavax Vaccine Overview](#)

## Adults aged 18 years and older

### Pfizer-BioNTech

#### AGE GROUP

#### 18 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
PRIMARY SERIES  
3-8 weeks after 1st dose  
**More details:** [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna**  
UPDATED BOOSTER  
At least 2 months after 2nd primary series dose or last booster

**Up to Date:** Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you

**More details:** [Staying up to date](#)

[Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine Overview](#)

### Moderna

#### AGE GROUP

#### 18 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose  
**Moderna**  
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose  
**Moderna**  
PRIMARY SERIES  
4-8 weeks after 1st dose  
**More details:** [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna**  
UPDATED BOOSTER  
At least 2 months after 2nd primary series dose or last booster

**Up to Date:** Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you

**More details:** [Staying up to date](#)

[Moderna Vaccine Overview](#)

## Novavax

AGE GROUP

### 18 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose

**Novavax**

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

**Novavax**

PRIMARY SERIES

3–8 weeks after 1st dose

**More details:** [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose

**Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna**

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd primary series dose

A Novavax booster is available in limited situations.

**More details:** [Novavax booster](#)

**Up to Date:** Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you

**More details:** [Staying up to date](#)

[Novavax Vaccine Overview](#)

## Johnson and Johnson's Janssen

AGE GROUP

### 18 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose

**J&J/Janssen**

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

**Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna**

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd primary series dose

A J&J/Janssen booster is available in limited situations.

**More details:** [J&J/Janssen booster](#)

**Up to Date:** Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you

**More details:** [Staying up to date](#)

[J&J/Janssen Vaccine Overview](#)

**Getting your 2nd dose:** Talk to your healthcare or vaccine provider about the timing for the 2nd dose in your primary series.

- **People aged 6 months through 64 years, and especially males aged 12 through 39 years**, may consider getting the 2nd primary dose of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Novavax 8 weeks after the 1st dose.
  - A longer time between the 1st and 2nd primary doses may increase how much protection the vaccines offer, and further minimize the rare risk of [myocarditis and pericarditis](#).
- **Anyone wanting protection due to high levels of community transmission, people aged 65 years and older, or people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19**, should get the second dose of:
  - Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine **3 weeks (or 21 days)** after the first dose.
  - Moderna COVID-19 vaccine **4 weeks (or 28 days)** after the first dose.
  - Novavax COVID-19 vaccine **3 weeks (or 21 days)** after the first dose.

**Novavax booster:** You may get a Novavax booster if you are unable or unwilling to receive a Pfizer or Moderna updated COVID-19 booster **and** you meet the following requirements:

- You are 18 years of age or older
- You completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series at least 6 months ago
- You have **not** gotten any other booster dose

**One updated booster dose:** If you have completed your updated booster dose, you are currently up to date. There is not a recommendation to get another updated booster dose.

**Updated Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine:**

- Children aged 6 months–4 years who completed their primary series with 3 doses of the original Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine are recommended to receive an updated Pfizer-BioNTech booster.
- Children aged 6 months–4 years who completed their primary series with 2 doses of the original Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of the updated Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine are not currently recommended to get an updated Pfizer-BioNTech booster.

**Staying up to date:** If you have completed your primary series, but are not yet eligible for a booster, you are also considered up to date.

## Mixing COVID-19 Vaccine Products

### Do Not Mix Primary Series

CDC does not recommend mixing products for your primary series doses. If you received Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Novavax for the first dose of your primary series, you should get the same product for all following primary series doses.

### Mixing Boosters

The following information applies to people who want to get different products for their booster vaccine.

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#### Children aged 6 months–4 years



Children who only completed 2 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines should get the Pfizer-BioNTech updated vaccine as the 3rd dose in their primary series.

Children aged 6 months–4 years who completed the 2-dose Moderna primary series should get an updated Moderna booster.

## People aged 5 years and older



Children aged 5 who completed the Pfizer-BioNTech primary series should only get the updated Pfizer-BioNTech booster.

Children aged 5 who completed the Moderna primary series can get a different product for their updated booster than they got for their primary series.

People ages 6 years and older can get a different product for their updated booster than they got for their primary series or last booster.



### Learn About Getting Your Vaccine

- Do you need to wait to get vaccinated after getting COVID-19 or getting treatment for COVID-19?
- How can you prepare for vaccination?
- What can you expect during and after your vaccination?

Getting Your COVID-19 Vaccine

## Vaccination Received Outside the United States

Specific recommendations for people vaccinated outside the United States depend on whether:

- The vaccine(s) received are accepted in the United States as valid vaccinations
- The primary series was completed and, if eligible, a booster dose was received

These recommendations apply only to people who are **not** moderately or severely immunocompromised.

COVID-19 vaccines available abroad that are accepted in the United States as valid vaccinations



Vaccines approved or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) currently include:

- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Moderna
- Novavax
- Johnson & Johnson's Janssen

Vaccines listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO) currently include those that are listed above and the following:

- AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine
- Sinopharm
- Sinovac
- COVAXIN
- Covovax

- CanSino 

## If You Receive a Vaccine That is Not in the U.S. Accepted List Above

- Wait at least 28 days after the last dose you received of that vaccine then start COVID-19 vaccination over with a COVID-19 vaccine that has been approved or authorized by the FDA.
- If the FDA has not approved or authorized a vaccine there may be limited data available or reviewed on the safety or effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine.

## How to Complete a Primary Series

- Receive 1 dose of a single-dose accepted COVID-19 vaccine
- Receive 2 doses of a 2-dose accepted COVID-19 vaccine

CDC does not recommend mixing different COVID-19 vaccines for the primary series, but CDC is aware that mixing COVID-19 vaccines for the primary series is increasingly common in many countries outside the United States. Therefore, people who receive a mixed primary series, meaning two different COVID-19 vaccines, have completed the series.

## If You Started But Didn't Complete a Primary Series

- You will need to complete the primary series. If you got 1 dose of Moderna, Novavax, or Pfizer-BioNTech, it is best to get the same vaccine again to complete the primary series.

## After Completing a Primary Series

If you are not yet eligible for a booster, you are considered up to date. Otherwise, stay up to date by getting the booster recommended for you as soon as a booster is recommended for you based on your age and the appropriate time has passed since completing the primary series.

### Proof of vaccination card in the United States



The white CDC [COVID-19 vaccination cards](#) are issued only to people vaccinated in the United States. CDC recommends that people vaccinated outside of the United States keep their documentation of being vaccinated in another country as proof of vaccination. CDC does not keep vaccination records nor determine how vaccination records are used. People can update their records with vaccines they received while outside of the United States by:

- Contacting the [immunization information system \(IIS\)](#) in their state.
- Contacting their healthcare provider or local or state immunization program through their [state's health department](#).

[Learn more about COVID-19 vaccination cards.](#)

**For Healthcare Workers:** Learn more about the recommendations for [people vaccinated outside of the United States](#).



### For Healthcare and Public Health

[Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States: Interim Clinical Considerations](#)